



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 21 MAY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED
NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter of 10 April 1996 to your predecessor as president of the Security Council from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations (S/1996/269). The letter refers to two newspaper articles about a documentary programme shown recently on British television. Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher was murdered on 17 April 1984 outside the Libyan diplomatic mission in St. James' Square, London, by shots from a gun fired from a window of that mission. The television programme contained speculation that the shots might have come from elsewhere in the Square. The Libyan letter treats the speculations in the programme as fact. The truth is as follows.

Following the murder of Constable Fletcher, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya refused to cooperate in a criminal investigation or to allow its diplomatic mission to be searched. Instead it proposed that a Libyan mission of inquiry should come to the United Kingdom, and that any Libyan found to be implicated should be put on trial in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The United Kingdom regarded this as a totally inadequate response to the killing of a British citizen carried out in broad daylight on the streets of London, and accordingly broke off diplomatic relations with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. At the inquest held by a coroner, the evidence given led to the jury deciding that Constable Fletcher was unlawfully killed by a bullet coming from one of two first floor windows at the front of the Libyan People's Bureau.

The Libyan Government has maintained its refusal to accept responsibility for the actions of Libyan officials, to tender an apology or pay compensation to Constable Fletcher's family. In 1991 the United Kingdom Police Dependents' Trust received a cheque for £250,000 from the Libyan Police syndicate in connection with the murder, but the Trust declined to accept it.

It is unacceptable that the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya ignores the facts about the murder of Constable Fletcher, which were made clear at the inquest. It is also unacceptable that it should seek to use the speculative comments in a television programme to cast doubt on the evidence on which the charges are based against the two Libyans in respect



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of the murder of 270 people at Lockerbie in Scotland on 21 December 1988. The letter will do nothing for the cause of confidence in relations between the United Kingdom and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Rather the reverse.

I am requesting that you have my letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) John WESTON
